

Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting
May 17, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 17, 2004. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Elliott, McNaul, Wilson, White, Worley, Witt.

PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as printed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, McNaul, Wilson, Elliott, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, May 3, 2004 Regular Session.
- Approval of the renewal for Class BB Liquor License for Pizza Hut #4329, 1033 Broad Street.
- Approval of the renewal for Class LC and Class WB Liquor License for Café Phoenix, 834 Park Street.
- Approval of the Clerk's Report.
- Approval of the Treasurer's Report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- I. PAD Minutes of April 29 and May 6, 2004.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Report from Public Works & Grounds Committee.

- Recommendation in regard to the removal of sidewalk at the Stewart Library.

Elliott reviewed the deteriorating condition of the north sidewalk at the Stewart Library. The sidewalk is very difficult to maintain during the winter months. Elliott explained that from Broad Street there are three sidewalks that approach the main entrance of the library; however there is no handicap accessible sidewalk. The committee is considering the removal of the north sidewalk in exchange for making an ADA compliant ramp from Broad Street to the south entrance. Elliott requested input from the Council and the public for arguments to preserve the north sidewalk. Staff will be researching cost estimates and the committee will take action at a later date.

- Recommendation in regard to the removal/replacement/change of sidewalk lights at the Community Center.

The committee discussed the lights that illuminate the Community Center sidewalks. The lights, which are over twenty years in age, need repair or replacement. The committee agreed that the lighting concept along the sidewalk needs to be preserved. Staff will present further options for committee review.

- Schedule the public hearing in regard to the 2004 Street Projects for Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

The committee reviewed the street projects proposed for the 2004 construction season. The committee agreed to accept bids and will review the projects when pricing is available. The committee will be able to better prioritize the proposed projects once a firm linear foot price has been established.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to accept bids and schedule the public hearing in regard to the 2004 Street Projects for Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, Worley, White, McNaul. Motion carried.

- Review of discussion in regard to the proposed Alliant Energy transmission line.

Elliott reviewed citizen input in regard to the construction of the proposed Alliant Energy transmission line. A contingent of citizens has begun to form against the project and have been told by Alliant representatives that their concerns must be expressed by the city. The committee requested the citizen group continue to collect data, signatures, and petitions to help the city make a solid case opposing the construction of the line. The city has already firmly taken a position against this project. Elliott felt that a petition from the citizens would force Alliant to reconsider their proposal.

- Recommendation in regard to the request by Ms. Teresa Beal to allow parking on both sides of Beck Court on May 29, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of a graduation reception.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WHITE to approve the request by Ms. Teresa Beal to allow parking on both sides of Beck Court on May 29, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of a graduation reception. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, White, McNaul, Wilson, Worley, Witt.

II. Report from the Finance Committee.

- Recommend approval for the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved by the committee as presented.

- Review of the proposed community development organization guidelines.

White noted that the committee hopes to resolve this issue soon. He noted that the proposal will be submitted to the Planning Committee prior to review by the entire city council.

- Recommendation in regard to the Lang Creek Crossing RISE Contracts between the city and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to approve the RISE contracts between the city and the Iowa Department of Transportation and authorize the mayor to execute the agreement. Roll Call Vote: White, Elliott, Witt, McNaul, Worley, Wilson. Motion carried.

III. Report from the Public Safety Committee.

- Update in regard to the request for the placement of a traffic light on Washington Avenue and Highway 146.

Wilson informed the council that the state is ultimately responsible for granting permission for the placement of an additional traffic light. He noted that the state is reviewing past traffic studies and the committee is hoping they will complete a new study. Highway 6 is also under review for both an additional traffic light and a reduction of speed limit. This item will remain under review and no action has been taken.

- Update in regard to the fees for emergency services provided by the City of Grinnell outside of Poweshiek County.

Wilson reviewed discussion of fees being assessed to areas outside of Poweshiek County, including Oakland Acres, for the use of the fire and ambulance service being provided by the city of Grinnell. Oakland Acres does pay a levy to the rural townships for fire protection, however pays nothing directly to the city commensurate to the level of protection provided. The city and Oakland Acres have no official agreement in place to provide the service.

- Update in regard to the fire chief recruitment process.

Wilson noted the deadline for application is May 22, 2004 and the position is a civil service position. He highlighted that Vest has served in the position longer than allowed by state statute due to implications with the budget.

- Discussion in regard to the animal control ordinance.

The committee reviewed the proposed animal control ordinance, particularly sections that limit the number of dogs and cats one person can own in addition to licensing requirements. The committee discussed the necessity for improved equipment for the police department to aid their animal control efforts.

- Update in regard to the request for a stop sign at 14th Avenue and Prairie Street or 14th Avenue and Spencer Street.

Wilson discussed that a recent accident has prompted continued review of the intersection for safety and potential traffic control devices. He continued by noting that past studies have shown that additional control devices are not merited. A fir tree adjacent to the intersection, that at times has impaired line of sight, has now been removed. Wilson still felt that this intersection deserves due consideration because of circumstances that have changed in the neighborhood with the construction of the through streets. Wilson noted that this topic continues to be under review and the committee has taken no action at this time. Witt voiced his concern in regard to speed and the amount of traffic is creating an unsafe intersection. Wilson referred to the Manual for Uniform Traffic Code being used by city government to insure the proper placement of signs.

IV. Report from the Planning Committee

- Schedule the public hearing in regard to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan for Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Worley informed the City Council that the committee has completed the final review of the comprehensive plan. He noted that copies have been provided to the council and are available at city hall and the Stewart Library.

Moved by WORLEY, second MCNAUL to schedule the public hearing in regard to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan for Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, McNaul, White, Wilson, Elliott, Witt. Motion carried.

Elliott noted this will be the final opportunity for public comment prior to the adoption of the plan. However, the city council did want to remind everyone that this plan is simply a blue print. It is subject to change and should be re-written every ten years even though the scope is to plan for the future of the community. The goal of the plan is to establish long term goals for the community to work toward.

- Update in regard to the Hotel/Motel Tax Committee appointments.

The committee briefly reviewed the proposed Hotel/Motel Tax Committee appointments.

V. Appointment to Boards and Commissions with City Council Approval

- Appointment of Tom Cirks to the Hotel/Motel Tax Committee.

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve the mayor's appointment of Mr. Tom Cirks to the Hotel/Motel Tax Committee. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, Witt, Elliott, Wilson, McNaul. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

The adoption of the following resolution was tabled.

Resolution 2667: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYEE POLICIES AND HANDBOOK PERTAINING TO SECTION 6. BENEFITS, VACATION, HOLIDAYS, TUITION, AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE."

INQUIRIES: None.

ADJOURN:

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by MCNAUL, to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council. Vote: (6) ayes, motion carried. Adjournment: 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

Gordon Canfield, Mayor

Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk